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**PECOS MAN INDICTED FOR MARIHUANA POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO
DISTRIBUTE**

(Alpine, Texas) **United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced the indictment today by a federal grand jury of **Jaime Fuentes CASARES**, of Pecos, Texas, charging him with possession with intent to distribute more than 1,000 kilograms of marihuana.

A criminal complaint filed in the case alleges on January 3, 2003, a United States Park Ranger stopped the accused, Jaime Fuentes **CASARES**, near Panther Junction Ranger Station, located in Big Bend National Park, for speeding. After the lawful traffic stop, the accused told the Park Ranger he was transporting marihuana. A search of the vehicle yielded 1294.69 kilograms of marihuana, wrapped in approximately one pound blocks. Later that same evening, United States Border Patrol located, in the same vicinity, an abandoned vehicle registered to a known acquaintance of **CASARES**, which contained an additional 1459.97 kilograms of identically wrapped marihuana.

If convicted, **CASARES**, faces a maximum sentence of 10 years to life in prison and a \$4 million fine. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Gary Tromblay.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence. Defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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